

Our Review of Reviews.

The Literature of Stamps.

Mr. Victor Marsh has our sincere good wishes for the success of his projected "Directory of Philatelic Literature." Mr. Castle and many others have drawn attention to the "unwise neglect" of the literature of our hobby. Mr. Marsh's scheme, as we understand it, is to provide a directory of philatelic periodicals and a guide book to stamp literature generally. The names and addresses of collectors, he informs us, will be inserted free.

On this same subject of philatelic literature we must pay tribute to the enterprise of Mr. S. F. Bickers, of Cork, who is publishing, at intervals, an interesting little sheet known as the "City Philatelist," which is devoted largely to the subject of philatelic literature. We have no doubt that Mr. Bickers will send a copy free to any *Fortnightly* reader who applies for it. What is especially calculated to make the "C.P." a welcome addition to philatelic bibliography is the serial publication of an alphabetical list of all known British philatelic newspapers and magazines, past and present. This is being specially compiled by Messrs. H. Clark and R. H. Appleby, who, as dealers in literature should know their subject well.

Concerning Australian Stamps Perforated "O.S."

Mr. A. F. Basset Hull contributes a few interesting notes to the "Australian Journal of Philately," modestly entitling them "Casual Remarks."

With regard to the decision of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons not to stock any Australian stamps perforated with the letters O.S. or any other letters, Mr. Basset Hull writes:—"I cordially agree with their decision. Apart from the fact that the perforation disfigures the stamps, they cannot be considered in the light of separate issues for official correspondence, such as the overprinted O.S. stamps prior to 1901 undoubtedly were, since all Australian postage stamps are now, and have been ever since the 1st March, 1901, Commonwealth issues, and the various States using them on their official correspondence have to purchase them from the Federal Government on a cash basis. It is only for the convenience of bookkeeping that each State is supplied with separate types; the stamps are sold by the Commonwealth; that Government is charged with the cost of production, and it is only after all expenses of administration have been paid that the Commonwealth returns the small remaining balance (in fact there is no balance in some States) to the State Governments. The O.S. perforated stamps, therefore, are exactly on the same level as the perforated stamps used by a private firm."

Queen's Heads and King's Heads.

MR. CRAWFORD CAPEN chats pleasantly on "The Market" in the February issue of the "American Journal of Philately."

A very natural question (he writes) is "Will the Queen's head stamps of all the British Colonies become scarce?" and this, in a general way, is probably the fact, for the issues were so numerous, and speculators have so often been caught and lost money when they have attempted to lay aside large numbers of stamps that it is probable that they will not now attempt anything of the sort at any rate to any very great extent. Some collectors have been desirous of securing the stamps of the Queen's head type of Sierra Leone inasmuch as the King's head stamps have been prepared. The postmaster of the colony, however, states that he does not propose to issue King's head stamps until the Queen's head values have been sold out. Inasmuch as he has on hand large numbers of Queen's head stamps and his postal requirements are exceedingly small, it is likely to be some time before the high values at least are issued, and it is probable that the Queen's head stamps will, most of them, go into the hands of collectors and dealers so that they will not become scarce.

It is a difficult thing to understand why we continue to have what may be called "post mortems" that is Queen's head stamps actually prepared and issued since King Edward ascended the throne. Why have stamps of this kind been made for South and West Australia? Why does a seven cent stamp appear in Canada? We might understand this if the heads of the great in England were placed upon stamps only after their death, but the understanding being that the place is for the living ruler we are puzzled by these Colonial issues. While we are on the subject of Queen's Head stamps it may be well to mention that those for the Native States

of India, bearing different surcharges for each State, are stamps which are likely to increase in scarcity and value. They have never been easily obtainable and the supply of some of them is exceedingly limited.

WHY VENEZUELAS HAVE DROPPED IN PRICE.

"Collectors," writes Mr. Crawford Capen in another portion of his article on "The Market," "will have noticed a considerable drop in the prices of the stamps of Venezuela. This results from the large number of remainders which have just now come on the market. The great advance made at the same time in the stamps of the French offices in Canton and Hoi Hao, particularly the latter, has come about from the knowledge of the extremely small numbers which have been issued of some of these varieties. There were only six hundred copies each of the one franc and five francs of Hoi Hao."

A Complete Collection of Australians.

A correspondent of the "Australian Journal of Philately" having asked how many stamps were comprised in a complete collection of Australians, the Editor with great enterprise and diligence has counted up all the stamps of the six Australian Colonies and New Zealand listed in Gibbons' Catalogue. The results are as follows:—

	Types.	Postage.	Dues.	O.S.	Postal Fiscals.	Total.
New South Wales	29	431	25	97	—	553
Queensland	15	196	12	—	35	243
South Australia	13	295	12	162	—	469
Tasmania	15	208	12	—	36	256
Victoria	47	286	31	—	39	356
West Australia	16	125	12	—	19	156
	135	1541	104	259	129	2033
New Zealand	37	259	18	—	100	377
	172	1800	122	259	229	2410

South Australia departmentals, West Australian officials (punched holes), N.Z. Officials (8), Railway Newspaper (16), and Insurance (14), are not included in the above table. All varieties of shade, watermark and perforation have been included.

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